

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 are rejected in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Takedomi (US 5,087,844).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shikayama (US 6,731,029) in view of Takedomi (US 5,087,844).

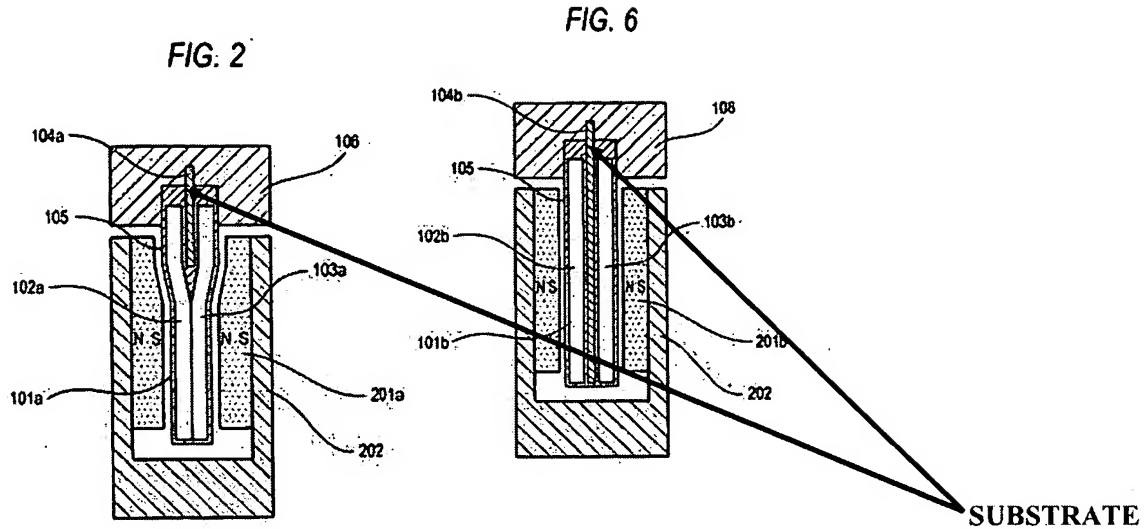
Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shikayama (US 6,731,029) in view of Takedomi (US 5,087,844) and further in view of AAPA.

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

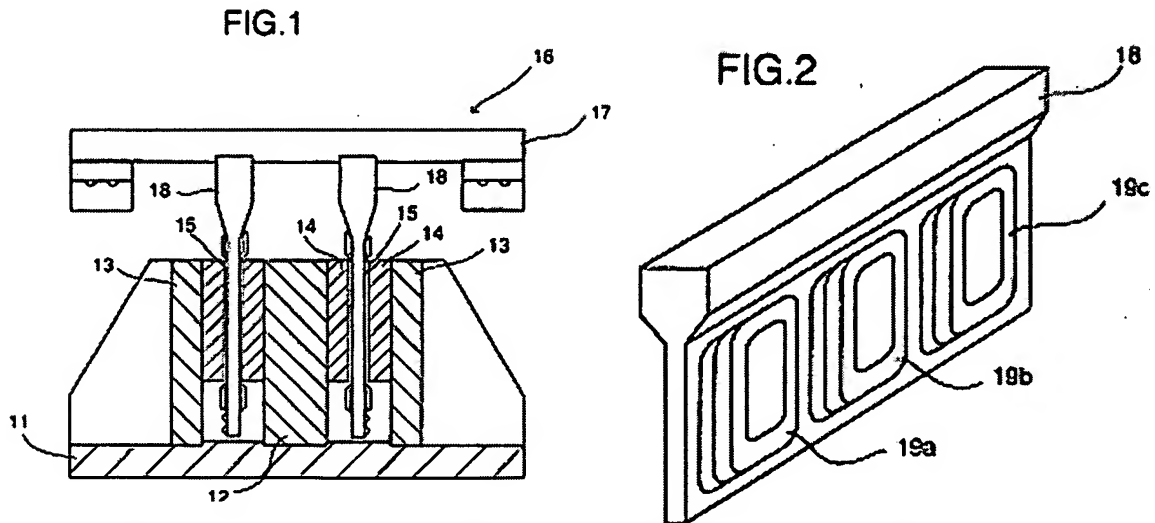
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Takedomi.

In maintaining the rejection of the claims, the Examiner is believed to be taking an unreasonable interpretation of the term "attached" to mean "bring into association" allegedly based on the definition in the Websters dictionary. The Applicants respectfully submit that the plain meaning of the terms are clear, especially in light Figs. 2 and 6 of the Specification (the figures are reproduced below)



As can be seen, the coils are attached at one end and they are separated at the other end with the substrate being positioned in the gap there between.



The Examiner contends that while Fig. 2 of Takedomi (reproduced above) might not show that the coils are attached to each other, they are attached as shown in Fig. 1 at least in line with the Examiner's definition of the term "attach." As shown in Fig. 1, the coil frame 18, which the Examiner reads on the substrate of the present invention, stretches all the way from the top

portion of the coil to the bottom portion of the coil. In other words, there are no portions of the coils that are attached to each other with no substrate between them.

To clarify the distinction, the Applicants respectfully amend the claims to recite that at the portion where the coils are attached there is no substrate in between them.

A skilled artisan would not have found it obvious to make a linear motor at least with the substrate positioned at a gap between a branched end of the armature coils as in the present invention.

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and is allowable at least for the same reasons.

Rejection of Claim 3 as being unpatentable over Shikayama in view of Takedomi

The above-discussed amendment should overcome the rejection of the claim 3.

Rejection of Claim 4 as being unpatentable over Shikayama in view of Takedomi and further in View of AAPA.

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 3 and is allowable at least for the same reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 10/586,239

Attorney Docket No.: Q96010

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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